

HJ 42 – PH 3-21-14

Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:10 AM

To: Jud Testimony

Subject: Testimony Charla Nash

To the members of the Connecticut Judicial Committee:

I would like to say that I am opposed to overturning the decision of the Connecticut claims commissioner in Charla Nash's application for permission to sue the state of Connecticut.

I am horrified at the nature and extent of Ms Nash's injuries, but at the same time I do not believe that the emotional response to those injuries should be suing the state. The claim that the state, through the DEP or the DEEP, should have acted to stop the ownership of chimps sounds great following this gruesome event, but in reality it is only this event that makes it clear that chimp ownership needs controlling and gives weight and urgency to that clarity. Prior to this event I can envision Charla Nash coming to the capital to testify on her friend's behalf about how harmless chimps are and how cruel the state would be to take chimps away from owners. The lesson from this horrible situation is that chimps aren't pets, not that these grievous injuries were foreseeable by the state before they occurred.

Thank you

Jeff Blackwell